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From: Lederberg
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To: cmiller

Many of you will already have learned, from the news or elsewhere, that I am planning to leave Stanford. I have the opportunity to assume the presidency of Rockefeller University; and I thought many of you would be curious about that situation, and as well about what impact this would have on SUMEX-AIM.

Briefly, the answer to the latter is very little. We have worked hard to assure the continuity of the effort; and Ed Feigenbaum has agreed to take over my role as principal investigator. This contingency was included in the formal application for renewal of the resource grant, and should not influence the outcome of funding arrangements (which are still in progress.) The SUMEX staff remains as energetic and eager to serve this community as ever; and there is no reason for concern about any significant disruption of the effort. For my own part, I intend to remain an active participant in SUMEX-AIM from my new station; if anything I may have reason to be more sympathetic with the inevitable problems of communication delays and so forth.

As to Rockefeller University: first, I will not be moving to New York until September 1 -- for all the reasons those of you with families will well understand. The university is a fairly unique institution, having about 100 students (all Ph.D.-candidates) and 200 faculty, centered almost entirely on biomedical research. There are no departments, and the president functions more like the chairman of a large department, than like a dean or president of a typical university. It is located in Manhattan, overlooking the East River, about a mile north of the United Nations. Its campus (about 5 city blocks) is just next to a major center of medical activity, with institutions like Cornell Medical School, Sloan Kettering Institute, New York Hospital, and Memorial Hospital literally one block away. There is a long tradition of electronic instrumentation in medical research there, dating back to Gasser and Hartline's work; but there has been little formal computer science or artificial intelligence per se. The fact that Pat Haggerty (Texas Instruments) is chairman of the university board, and William O. Baker (Bell Labs.) is vice-chairman, should speak for itself about support for further innovation in directions compatible with SUMEX-AIM. The university of course has an outstanding reputation in molecular biology and related research fields with which I identify myself as a laboratory investigator.

At any rate, I will continue at Stanford now for many months, and will have many occasions for further communications before moving.

Joshua Lederberg